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JULY
NO. 56

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

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Revell

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

DEEP IN THE WILDS OF A LOST MEXICAN CIVILIZATION, THE *CHALLENGERS* FACE A BLOODTHIRSTY KING, AN *LSD* NIGHTMARE AND AN UNKNOWN ASSASSIN WHO ACTS LIKE HE HAS A...

LICENSE TO KILL!

INVADING DOGS! VILE VIOLATORS OF MY LAND! YOU DIE NOW-- WITH ONE SWEEP OF THE SWORD!

HOLD IT, KINGY OLD BOY! COULDN'T WE TALK THIS OVER? SAY *OVER* ABOUT A YEAR OR TWO!

SAVE THE JOKES, ROCK-HEAD! THIS GUY ONLY LAUGHS AT FIRES, PLAGUES AND MASS MURDERS!

ART BY: BOB BROWN
STORY BY: ARNOLD DRAKE

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DEEP BENEATH THE SEA, IN THE STRANGE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE *CHALLENGERS*, ROCKY FACES AN OPPONENT EQUAL EVEN TO HIM...

YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME, BUDDY-O! LIKE I SAID-- THIS IS GONNA BE A WRESTLIN' MATCH WITH NO HOLDS BARRED!

BUT IT'LL BE EASY TO KEEP SCORE ON THIS ONE-- THE LAST MAN *ALIVE*, WINS! RIGHT, BUBIE? OH, I FORGOT-- YOU NEVER TALK!

WHOOSH

OKAY, SILENT SAM, TRY THIS ONE ON FOR SIZE FOR OPENERS! MY PERSONALLY PATENTED *SHOULDER ROLL!* IT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE END!

NOW A FLYING DIVE TO FINISH YOU OFF! MAN, CREAMIN' YOU IS LIKE *TOO EASY!* IT'S NO SPORT, SHOOTIN' AT DEAD DUCKS!

UGGH! I SPOKE TWO FEET TOO SOON! AND BOTH FEET WERE YOURS!

WHOOSH

KWAM

OKAY, SO YOU PITCH PRETTY FAIR! BUT LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU CATCH!

WHUNK

HOLY HANNAH! I KNEW YOU WERE A RING-A-DING WRESTLER -- BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

LANNG

H-H-HOLD IT, "WHISPERS!" "DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL! C-C-CAN'T WE TALK THIS OVER? LIKE, ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOIN'?

THAT'S BETTER! I FIGURED US CHALLS WOULD REDECORATE ONE DAY AND KNOCK OUT THAT WALL -- BUT NOT WITH MY HEAD, CHUM!

WOOSH

WHOPP

BUT IF YOU'RE SO KEEN ON KNOCKIN' A GUY'S BLOCK OFF, LEMME SHOW YOU WHO INVENTED THE GAME!

KWAMM

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT CLEVER STUFF YOU CAN COME UP WITH WHEN THE PRESSURE'S REALLY ON! UGGH! HOPE YOU CORNERED THE ASPIRIN MARKET -- LIKE YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT!

HOLY TOLEDO! LOOK WHAT CAME OFF! I'LL HAVE TO SPEAK TO PROF ABOUT THIS! HE SAID THIS ROBOT HE DESIGNED WAS GOOD FOR THREE BOUTS! WELL, WHATAYA EXPECT -- CHEAP MERCHANDISE!

R-R-R-P

IS HE KIDDING? ROCKY, FORMER CONTENDER FOR THE HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD, FIGHTING HIS OWN SELF-CONTROLLED ROBOT! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WELL, IF IT'S ACTION YOU WANT, LET'S GET WITH ACE MORGAN! ONLY WE'LL HAVE TO GO 10,000 FEET UP TO FIND HIM!

HO-OH! IT'S THE "BLACK BARON"--AND HE'S RIGHT ON MY TAIL! HIS SHIP'S AS FAST AS MINE! SO I'LL HAVE TO OUT-*THINK* HIM!

BWEEE

YWEEP

SCORE ONE FOR ME-- I TURNED INTO THE SUN AND TEMPORARILY BLINDED HIM! NOW FOR STAGE TWO!

BWEEE

YWEEP

KWEEE

AYEE!

BB

DID WE TELL YOU THERE'D BE ACTION?

I CLIMB STRAIGHT UP AND HOPE THE SHIP CAN TAKE THE STRAIN! THEN DO A FLIP AND COME RIGHT UP BEHIND HIM!

WHOOOSH

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

THAT STUNT IS RIGHT OUT OF WORLD WAR I! GOOD THING THE BARON WAS A LOUSY HISTORY STUDENT! SO LONG, B.B.!

NOW HOW WAS THAT FOR WHIPPIN' THE ADRENALIN THROUGH THE VEINS, EH? OH-OH! HOLD IT! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

BROTHER, THAT WAS ONE DANDY FIGHT! BUT IT'S TEN YEARS OLD! LET'S SEE WHAT I'VE GOT IN THE MORE RECENT FILES!

ACE MORGAN FILE 137-B

SOME DERRING-DOER! SITTING AROUND LOOKING AT FILMS OF HIS OLD BATTLES! ARE WE AT THE RIGHT ADDRESS?

WELL, THERE'S ONE GUY WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON! THE *CHALLS'* FIGHTING EGG-HEAD, GOOD OLD PROF!

I THINK I'VE ALMOST GOT THE HANG OF THIS SUPER GADGET THAT SCIENTIST-X "WILLED" TO US!*

*SCIENTIST-X WAS A GENIUS, FROM A SUPERIOR PLANET, WHO LEFT OUR HEROES A COLLECTION OF FANTASTIC WEAPONS BACK IN ISSUE NUMBER 58!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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OKAY, READY FOR TEST NUMBER ONE!

YEOW! LOOK AT THIS THING GO--IT BURNT A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH A THREE-FOOT CUBE OF STEEL! SHE MAKES ONE OF OUR LASER'S LOOK LIKE A RUSTY POPGUN!

REEEEEE

CRZZZ

LET'S TRY A CRACK AT THE FIRE-FIGHTING SUIT--MADE OF PURE ASBESTOS!

HOOOEEEE! IT SENT THAT "FIREPROOF" JOB UP IN FLAMES LIKE IT WAS A GASOLINE-SOAKED HAYSTACK! NOW FOR THE *BIG* TEST!

FOOM

WOW! NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! IT BAKED THAT SEVEN-TIER CAKE IN THREE SECONDS! THE HOUSEWIVES WILL KILL EACH OTHER FOR ONE OF THESE!

WHAT'S GOING ON? THE *CHALLENGERS'* HIDEOUT IS NOW A HOME FOR RETIRED SUPER-HEROES? MEN WHO FIGHT DUMMIES AND USE MAN-KILLER WEAPONS TO BAKE CAKES?

WHAT'S BEHIND ALL OF THIS? ONE SIMPLE AND TRAGIC FACT!

BUT, NOT FAR AWAY, IN ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT CITIES, ONE YOUNG MAN HAS NO TIME FOR SELF-PITY...

AND THIS IS THE ROSE ABSOLUTE! THE FLOWER THAT WAS MY JENNIE'S LOVE!

YOU CALL THAT A CLOSE-UP? I'M PAYING THIS KID $25,000 FOR TWO SONGS! I WANT TO SEE EVERY FILLING IN HIS TEETH! MOVE THOSE CAMERAS--*IN!*

RED RYAN, LOYAL BUDDY OF A MILLION ADVENTURES, IS DEAD! AS RECORDED IN NUMBER 55! SACRIFICED FOR A WORLD THAT WILL NOT LONG REMEMBER HIM! BUT THESE THREE WILL NEVER FORGET--AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL NEVER FIGHT AGAIN, EITHER!

AND WHEN THE YOUNG SINGER, TINO MANARRY, HAS FINISHED...

OH, TINO! YOU KILL ME!

LET ME JUST TOUCH HIM ONCE!

EEEEEEEEEE

CALL THE COPS! THOSE GIRLS WILL TEAR HIM APART!

THEN, AFTER THEY WHISK HIM TO SAFETY...

GREAT, TINO-DOLL! I GOTTA GET ON THE PHONE TO CALL THE PAPERS! THEY'RE TEARING THE STUDIO TO PIECES! WHAT PUBLICITY THIS'LL MAKE FOR YOUR LAS VEGAS ENGAGEMENT!

I TOLD YOU! PUFF-PUFF! VEGAS IS OUT! WHEW, I HAD TO RUN FAST TO GIVE THOSE KIDS THE SLIP! ONE OF THESE DAYS, I MAY NOT BE SO LUCKY!

I PROMISED THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE THAT I'D FINISH THIS DESIGN FOR A UNIVERSAL VEHICLE--A JOB THAT CAN TRAVEL THROUGH ANY UNDEVELOPED AREA IN THE WORLD!

THEN, IN SIX WEEKS I GO TO SEBRING TO DRIVE THAT BABY I BUILT! BEFORE THAT--*NOTHING!*

YEAH! YEAH! YOU TOLD ME BEFORE! IMAGINE THROWING AWAY $100,000 IN DATES FOR SOME AFRICAN PEANUT FARM! BUT GO, ARGUE WITH A 17-YEAR-OLD GENIUS WITH AN IQ OF 179! SEE YOU LATER, PAL!

BUT I'LL BE PLENTY BUSY THOSE SIX WEEKS--BUSY KILLING EACH ONE OF THESE GUYS! AND LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE "QUIET ONES?" ARE THEY STILL PLAYING WITH THEIR DOLLS?

COME ON, MEN--WHAT'S WITH US? WE'VE GOT TO SHAKE THIS OFF! IF WE'RE DEAD, WHY DON'T WE JUST GO BURY OURSELVES?

LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'? WHY DON'T YOU GO GIVE COOKIN' LESSONS TO SOME PINK PUSSYCATS?

HOLD IT, PROF! I KNOW THIS IS NO WAY TO MEMORIALIZE RED! I KNOW HE'D NEVER WANT IT THIS WAY! BUT I THOUGHT YOU HAD NO HEART FOR--

--YEAH! AND I FIGURED BOTH YOU GUYS WANTED TIME TO CRY ALONE!

OKAY, THEN LET'S STOP WORRYING ABOUT EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS AND GET BACK INTO ACTION!

I'VE GOT JUST THE TICKET FOR THAT! A MESSAGE THAT CAME IN LATE LAST NIGHT! I'LL TELL YOU ALONG THE WAY! LET'S GET CRACKING!

SOON, AS THEIR ROCKET PLANE ROARS SOUTH-WARD...

PROFESSOR LAMONT DREXLER, ONE OF THE GREATEST BRAINS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, HAS A FATAL DISEASE! THERE'S AN ANCIENT RUMOR ABOUT SOME MIRACLE HERB IN SOUTH MEXICO THAT CAN CURE IT! WE'VE GOT 48 HOURS TO FIND IT!

THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO! FROM HERE ON, THE JUNGLE'S TOO DENSE FOR US TO BE ABLE TO SPOT ANYTHING FROM THE AIR!

WHOOSH CRACK

THIS IS WORSE THAN THE SUBWAY AT FIVE O'CLOCK!

I KNOW THIS PART OF THE WORLD! UGH! THE LEGENDARY CHOLTEC INDIANS WERE SUPPOSED TO LIVE HERE!

RIGHT! BUT IF MY INFORMA-TION IS CORRECT-- OOF!-- THEY'RE MORE THAN A LEGEND!

MAN! DIG THAT CRAZY MOUNT RUSH-MORE!

WE'RE ON THE RIGHT CARRIER BEAM, MEN! OUR LEGEND SAYS THE ENTRANCE TO CHOLTEC-LAND IS GUARDED BY THE GOD OF THE MOUNTAIN! HIM! NOW COMES THE EASY PART! WE CLIMB--!

THEN IT SAYS, AFTER YOU SCALE THIS THING AND PUSH ON THE RIGHT EYE--

HEY--LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENIN'' THE HEAD IS OPENIN''

MAN--WILLYA DIG THOSE CRAZY CIGAR-STORE INDIANS'

ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE.' THEY'RE LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THE STORY BOOKS.'

YEAH, YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, PROF-- BUT THOSE PIG-STICKERS THEY'RE CARRYING ARE FOR REAL.'

CONTINUED ON 47TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

8

THE BATTLE THAT ROCKS THE UNIVERSE!

FOR THE *GHOSTLY GUARDIAN* HAS AT LAST MET HIS MATCH IN THE *SCARLET SPEEDSTER*, NOW TURNED INTO A GHASTLY PHANTOM FOE!

WHO WILL COME OUT ALIVE?...

THE SPECTRE OR THE FLASH?

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THE DEADLY ANSWER AWAITS YOU IN The Brave and the Bold

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IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE $5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.

THE SMALL PIECES ALWAYS STICK IN MY HANDS WHEN I'M WORKING ON MY MODELS!

THANKS TO-
STEVE FAIRWEATHER
MONCTON, CANADA.

I KNOW HOW TO AVOID THAT.

HOW?

TRY RUBBING YOUR THUMB AND FIRST TWO FINGERS ON THIS WAX CANDLE.

APRIL IS HOBBY MONTH

TIME OUT FOR A HOBBY

SEE! IT COATS YOUR FINGERS AND WON'T LET THEM GET STICKY.

GREAT! IT WORKS SWELL.

HENRY BOLTHOFF

C.S.I.2

CUT OUT FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK

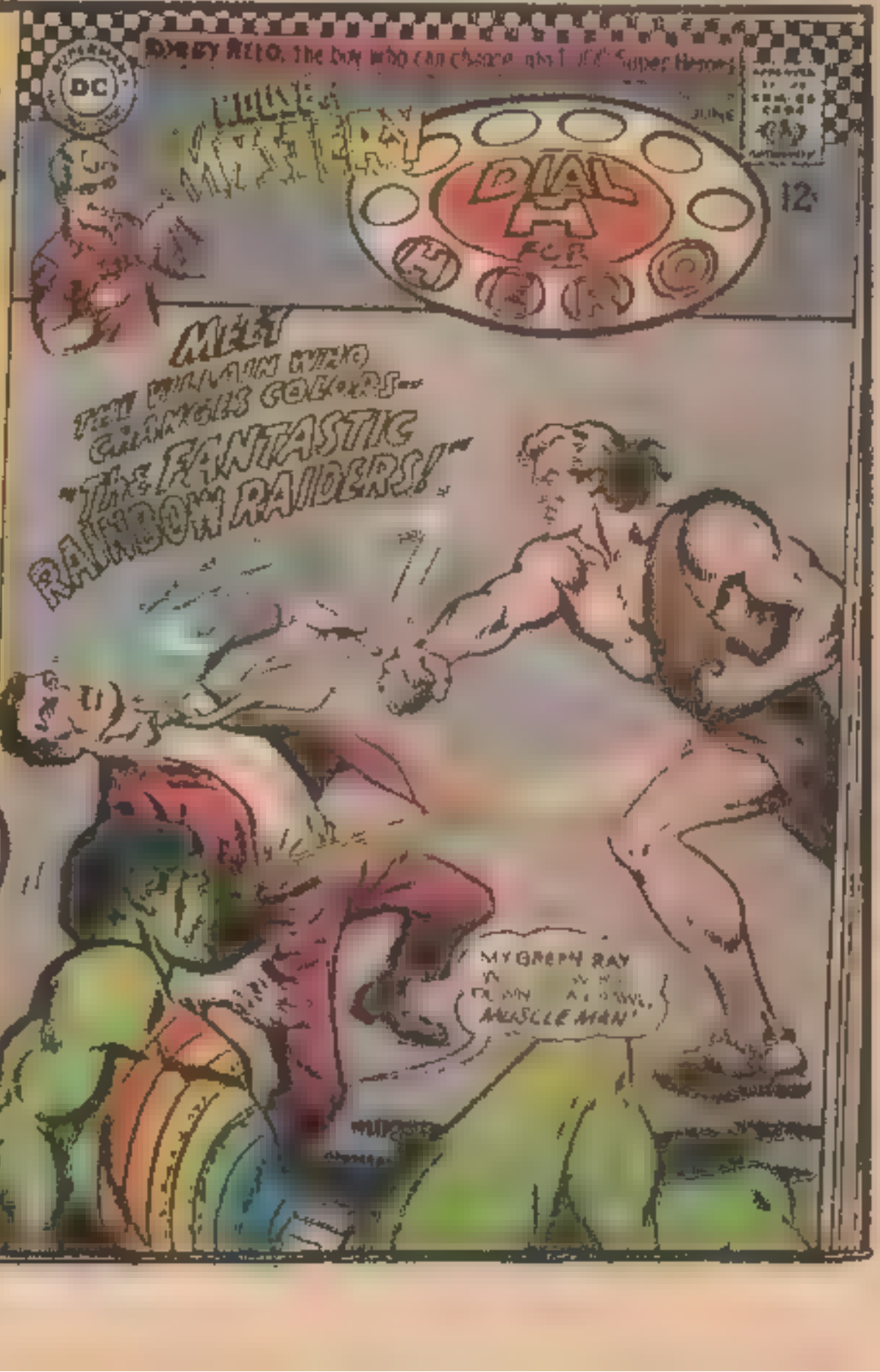
He's "IN"! EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT--

THE MOST ORIGINAL CHARACTER in COMIC HISTORY!

ROBBY REED
THE BOY WHO CAN CHANGE INTO 1,000 SUPER-HEROES!

ALL HE HAS TO DO IS

DIAL H FOR HERO



SUPERMAN • NATIONAL COMICS • DC

ON SALE EVERYWHERE APR. 6TH

LET'S CHAT WITH THE CHALLS

Address all mail to
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
National Periodicals
575 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Editor

Are my eyes deceiving me, or have I noticed a slight change in the design of the "Gallopin' Gizmo"? I read the story in which it was introduced, skipped a few issues because my candy store had sold them all, then when I was lucky enough to get a subsequent copy, I discovered a difference in its structure. Since I don't want to miss any of the vital details, can you please fill me in?

Chester Brownley, Lakewood, N.J.

Relax, Chet—nothing really happened of any importance. Remember, the Gizmo wasn't turned out on a factory assembly line but designed and built by Prof (with the aid of the other CHALLS). So he could modify and change it as he saw fit. The fact is, there was only one change. Bob Brown felt that his first version was too compact, so for the sake of the readers' clarity, he merely extended the arms between the mother ship and the three individual capsules, which could separate. A combat pilot and later an instructor in the Air Force in World War II, which earn him the qualifications of an expert, bouncing Bob gave the Gizmo considerable thought before putting down his first, historic brush strokes.

Bob also says the Gizmo is controlled and powered by solid fuel like the rockets at Cape Canaveral. It has no control surfaces like ailerons, a rudder or elevator as on an ordinary jet plane. It's maneuvered in space like a rocket. If you're sharp enough, you'll note that in one of the panels, Ace mentions "the azimuth control rockets" as he handles the lever.—Ed.

•••

Dear Editor:

Wow! Am I glad Villo is back! And with his computer-wife, too! (What else would you call such a nagging machine as Brainex?) "War of the Sub-Humans" in No. 54 was even better than the previous epics in which Villo appeared. In all my years of reading comics, I never saw such an hilarious villain. In a word, he's terrific. Who else would admit he's "a sore loser?" Who else would argue with a machine? Who else could utter such magnificent cliches as, "No more jail could ever hold me," and not sound totally ridiculous? Nobody! His antics were great. Not only did he doublecross his henchmen, but he was doublecrossed by Brainex.

In fact, he almost came out the hero, for the CHALLS should have been killed, and he made them look pretty silly by comparison with his wonderful handling of the situation. They won by only a fluke. Maybe you should make comic book history by giving him his own book!

Irene Vartanoff, Bethesda, Md.

Not a bad notion, Irene-honey, because Villo's popularity has grabbed the fans. And we're always trying to make history.—Ed.

•••

EDITOR's NOTE: To readers who contact their fellow-fan collectors via the "Swap Shop" to buy previous issues they missed or to offer their old copies for sale, we regret we must announce we are discontinuing that department. Some prior issues can be obtained by writing us (see address above in the title) and enclosing 15¢ for the copy plus 5¢ for postage for each—coins only, please! But not all back numbers are available, only the latest ones, and the supply is limited. So hurry!

•••

CHALLS' CHIT-CHAT: "Dimension-Man in No. 53 was just great, but as for his crony, The Iron Dictator, ech!" types Ted Palmer of Framingham, Mass. "Incidentally, I don't like having our CHALLS' new headquarters underwater." *(So? Haven't you heard about the housing shortage? We'll have to settle for that for the time being.—Ed.)*... "Could your group use me as a CHALLENGER?" asks Ricardo Pharr from Cleveland. *(You kiddin'? Haven't we got problems enough? Besides, we've got a new boy in this ish.—Ed.)*... Thanks to Lewis Brown for sending us sketches from Highland, N.J., but please desist from here on in. We've got more art stashed here than the Museum of Art...."That Bubble-Master was a masterpiece," writes Tony Piroli from a U.S. Army post in Germany. "Think we'll see more of him?" *(You can bet your bubbles, er, boots, you will.—Ed.)*...

PRESENTING the MAN of the HOUR— CLARK KENT!

I'LL BE WITH YOU AS CLARK IN A MOMENT...BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT SUPERMAN?

NO...WE WANT YOU... CLARK KENT!

DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT ACT AS THE HEROIC "FIREMAN OF STEEL"?

WELL, YES!

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU ONCE HAD A SHOWDOWN WITH GANG LEADER AL CAPONE?

ER... IT IS!

AREN'T YOU THE STAR OF "CAVEMAN CLARK KENT," "THE TRUTH MIRROR," "CLARK KENT'S NEW PARENTS," AND OTHER SUPER-STORIES?

AND AREN'T THESE EXCITING TALES ALL FEATURED IN THIS LATEST 80 PAGE GIANT?

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An ALL-CLARK KENT ISSUE Featuring SUPERMAN'S Alter-Ego!

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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 197 JULY

WHEN THERE WAS NO CLARK KENT!

DAILY PLANET

CLARK KENT KILLED IN BLAST!

FRIEND OF SUPERMAN DIES

CAVEMAN CLARK KENT

CLARK KENT, FIREMAN of STEEL!

CLARK KENT MEETS AL CAPONE!

The ROBOT CLARK KENT

GREAT JUMPING PARADISE! IT-- IT'S--SHANGRI-LA!

SHANGRI-WHA--? WHAT'S THAT, A CHINESE LULLABYE?

NOPE--A MYTHICAL VALLEY OF PARADISE CREATED BY THE WRITER, JAMES HILTON! AND THIS PLACE SURE FITS THE FABULOUS DESCRIPTION!

MAN, DIG THESE CRAZY CHICKS! THEY'RE SHANGRI-*LULUS*! YEEESH! EASY WITH THAT BIG TOOTHPICK, BUB! I'M A VERY SENSITIVE GUY!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS WHERE THE BIG MAN LIVES!

WHEW! WHAT A PAD! I LIKE HIS TASTE IN HUTS! NOW LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S GOT ON HIS GOLDEN BRAIN!

BOW DOWN BEFORE THE GREAT TAPUTOCA, THE GOLDEN EMPEROR! BORN OF THE SUN AND THE STARS, RULER OF THE EARTH AND THE RIVERS! PROTECTOR OF THE CHOLTEC PEOPLE!

-- AND GENERAL HOT ROCK ABOUT TOWN! WHO MAKES YOUR HATS, POP?

CAN THE QUIPS, CHUM REMEMBER, WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO!

WHY HAVE YOU COME TO OUR LAND? TO STEAL WHAT IS GOOD AND TO DESTROY WHAT YOUR GREEDY HANDS CANNOT CARRY! TO HARM THE GOLDEN CHILDREN OF TAPUTOCA! THEN *DIE*-- INVADERS!

NO--WE DO NOT COVET YOUR GOLD! WE MEAN NO HARM TO YOUR PEOPLE! WE COME ON A MISSION OF MERCY!

I KNOW SUCH MISSIONS! MERCY FOR YOUR POCKETBOOKS.. MISERY FOR MY LAND! YOU LIE!

WHERE'D YOU GET OFF, TALKIN' TO US THAT WAY, *TAPIOCA*? I'LL RAM THAT FANCY HEADGEAR DOWN YOUR --

SEIZE HIM!

UGH!

WAIT! WE SEEK BUT ONE THING -- AN HERB THAT GROWS IN THIS VALLEY -- THREE GREEN LEAVES WITH THIN YELLOW STRIPES ON EACH STALK!

SEENCHALLO! THE MEDICINE OF THE GODS! YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE THIS IS ALL YOU SEARCH FOR? COME--LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING!

THEY ENTER A DARKENED ROOM, AND SUDDENLY, AS BRILLIANT LIGHT BATHES THE BIZARRE SCENE...

MAN, A MEXICAN MURDER MUSEUM! IF THIS AIN'T THE LIVIN' END --!

STATUES OF ATROCITIES OF THE PAST AND PRESENT! BUT WHY--

NOT STATUES, INTRUDER! LOOK YOU ONCE MORE! FOR THOSE WERE ONCE-- LIVING MEN!

HE CAME FROM A LAND ACROSS THE SEA, SEEKING GOLD AND BRINGING DESTRUCTION WITH HIM! HE FOUND WHAT HE BROUGHT--DEATH!

A SPANISH CONQUISTADOR OF 300 YEARS AGO! THE FIRST INVADER!

THAT ONE CAME FROM THE NORTH LONG YEARS LATER--AND THIS ONE FLEW LIKE THE EAGLE AND LIVED LIKE THE VULTURE!

A YANKEE CLIPPER CAPTAIN--AND SOME MODERN GUNMAN ON THE RUN! BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THEY WERE ALIVE?

DO YOU NOT SEE? WE HAVE A WAY OF PRESERVING THE BODY AFTER DEATH!

M-M-MUMMIES! MUMMIES WITHOUT WRAPS! MAN, THESE FINKS TOPPED THE EGYPTIANS BY A MILE!

MY ANCESTORS WERE TRICKED BY THESE MEN! BEFORE THEY KILLED THE INVADERS, SORROW SWEPT OUR LAND! BUT I WILL NOT BE FOOLED! *GUARDS--TAKE THEM AWAY!*

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE HOME OF LOW-CALORIED COLA AND ROCK AND ROLL...

TINO-BABY! ARE YOU HERE? I WANT TO--HE'S NOT HERE! HASN'T BEEN BACK AT HIS HOTEL IN 24 HOURS EITHER! THAT KID'LL BE THE DEATH OF ME!

Dear Mr 10%.
Flying to southern Mexico. See you in three days--
I hope.
As always,
your bread and butter

MEXICO--WHAT'S HE GONNA DO, PLAY THE *LOEW'S CHIHUAHUA*--FOR THREE BOWLS OF CHILI? THAT *NUT!*

AND BACK IN THE STRANGE VALLEY...

IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONE OTHER INTRUDER SLIPPED PAST OUR GUARDS AND...

BY THE MOUNTAIN GOD! THERE HE GOES! CAPTURE HIM!

EASY AMIGOS! THEE'S EES A BRAND-NEW SOMBRERO-- AND YOU ALMOST PUT A HOLE THROUGH IT!

IT IS YOUR GIZZARD WE WILL PUT A HOLE THROUGH!

WISSSH

GLAD I THOUGHT OF PACKING THESE IN MY EMERGENCY KIT! VERY EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST CAVALRY TROOPS!

WEE-EEEE!

HE THREW SOMETHING UNDER THE HORSES' FEET! THEY 'CAN'T STAND!

AHEE!

THEY'LL BE AFTER ME ON FOOT IN A MINUTE! BETTER LOSE MYSELF-- MUY PRONTO!

AHH, THE WATER IS DELICIOUS TODAY! BUT WHERE IS PRINCESS DIZA?

UP IN THE CAVE! SHE WILL BE HERE IN A MOMENT! AND I HAVE A SPLENDID GAME WE CAN PLAY TODAY!

A CAVE! JUST WHAT THE HOTLY-PURSUED-MAN ORDERED! LOOKS LIKE THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!

EEEK! H-H-HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT THE PRINCESS DIZA? GET OUT, YOU SNEAKING DOG!

A THOUSAND PARDONS, PRINCESS! BUT THERE WAS NO DOOR, SO I COULD NOT KNOCK! AND NOW I, PANCHO TORITO, AM NOT SORRY, MY LEETLE CACTUS BLOSSOM!

YOU WILL GO AT ONCE!

UNHAPPILY, I CANNOT, SENORITA PRINCESS! SOME SOLDIERS ARE PLANNING A BARBECUE OUT THERE-- WITH ME FOR THE *ROAST*! BUT I WILL TURN AWAY WHILE YOU DRESS! MIND IF I SMOKE?

WHY ARE YOUR SOLDIERS SO UNFRIENDLY? IF I WERE A YANKEE, THAT WOULD BE DIFFER-- *HO-OH! MORE* UNFRIENDLINESS!

THEES KIND OF ATTITUDE WEEL NOT INCREASE YOUR TOURIST TRADE, SENORITA-- *HO-OH!* SOMEONE'S COMING!

IS THERE SOMEONE IN THIS CAVE? SPEAK!

MMF!

YEEOW!

YES-- THERE IS SOMEONE HERE!

OH-OH! THERE GOES THE BALL GAME!

HUH?

IT IS I, YOUR PRINCESS! NOW BE GONE!

I DID NOT DO THIS FOR YOU! I HATE OUTSIDERS JUST AS DOES MY FATHER, THE KING! BUT HE VOWS TO KILL THEM ALL! AND I CANNOT STAND BLOODSHED!

I AGREE, SENORITA! ESPECIALLY MY BLOOD!

THEN BE GONE, BEFORE YOU ARE EXECUTED ALONG WITH THE THREE FOREIGNERS IN OUR PRISON!

IN YOUR PREESON? HMM! OKAY, I WEEL VAMOOSE LIKE A GOOSE.. BUT FIRST YOU MUST DO ME ONE SMALL FAVOR, MY LEETLE DESERT ROSE!

MEANWHILE..

ANOTHER SPIDER! AND I SHOULD HAVE SQUASHED THAT KING TAPIOCA THE SAME WAY!

DANDY! THEN HOW WOULD WE GET THE HERBAL MEDICINE TO SAVE PROF DREXLER?

MAN LIKE RIGHT NOW WE GOTTA WORRY ABOUT SAVING US!

SPLAT!

IF WE DIE HERE, THERE'S ONE THING I'LL REGRET MOST! WE WERE NEVER ABLE TO SEND RED'S THINGS TO HIS KID BROTHER, MARTIN!

WE TRIED, ACE! RIGHT AFTER RED DIED, WE DID ALL WE COULD DO TO FIND THE KID.. HOLD IT! SOMEBODY'S COMING! OUR EXECUTION SQUAD.. MAYBE!

I BRING YOU, FOOD, INTRUDERS! AND A FINAL OFFER FROM TAPUTOCA CONFESS YOUR TRUE REASON FOR INVADING OUR LAND AND YOU WILL LIVE!

WE TOLD YOU THE TRUTH! NOW LET US HAVE OUR FINAL MEAL IN PEACE, 'FRIEND"!

I ALWAYS LIKED MEXICAN FOOD! BUT THIS STUFF IS ROTTEN!

BUDDY, YOU'RE NOT IN MEXICO.. YOU'RE IN CLOUD CUCKOO-LAND! AND THE FOOD'S THE SAME AS EVERYTHING ELSE HERE.. WEIRD!.

WELL, THAT DIDN'T KEEP YOU FROM EATING IT!

LISTEN, HUNGRY LIKE I WAS, I'D EAT ONE OF THESE SPIDERS!

SPLAT

16

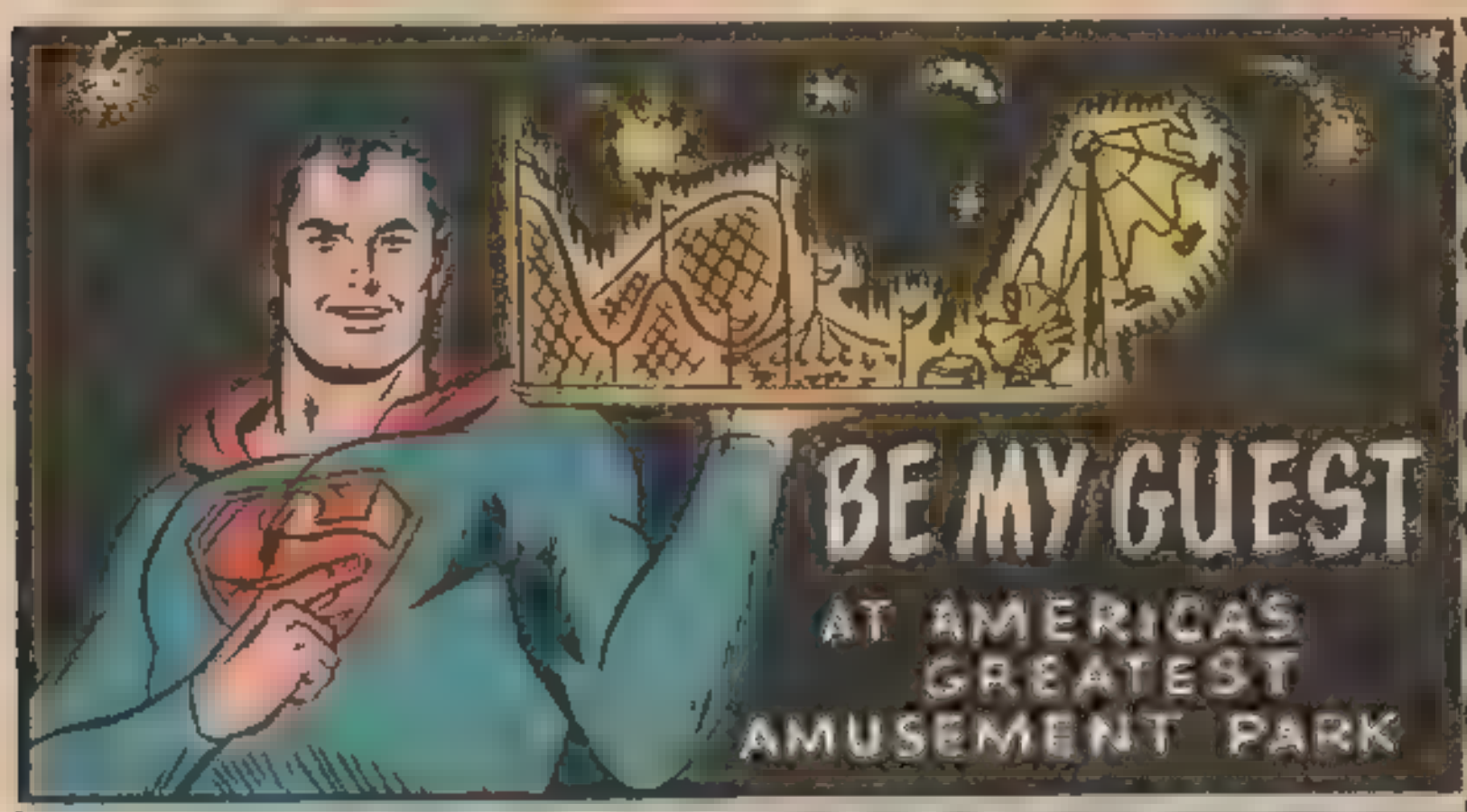
HEY, WHAT--?

WHRRR

SOME KIND OF MACHINE, ROCKY! YOU MUST HAVE HIT THE "BUTTON" WHEN YOU STEPPED ON THAT INSECT! WATCH IT, BUDDY! YOU'RE FALLING IN!

WHOOSH

AND WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT CRAWLS OUT OF THAT FLOOR! THE GRANDDADDY OF ALL--WELL, SEE FOR YOURSELF 1 PAGE FORWARD!



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A GIANT SPIDER! I DON'T THINK HE LIKED WHAT YOU DID TO H S LITTLE COUSINS.'

YECHHH! VERY FUNNY! MEANWHILE, HE'S BUSTIN' MY RIBS' PROF -- YOU BRING ALONG ONE OF THOSE MINI-BOMBS OF YOURS? GASP!

I SURE DID, ROCKY -- BUT I WAS SAVING IT FOR A RAINY DAY'

WELL, PAL -- ;GROAN;! RIGHT NOW IT'S -- POURIN'!

BAROOM

Y-Y-YOU DID IT, PROF! B-B-BUT LOOK AT IT NOW!

H-H-HOLY HANNAH! THE THING GREW *TWO* HEADS! IT'S LIKE THAT MONSTER IN THE G--G--GREEK L-L-LEGEND'

L-L-LOOK WHO'S GIVING LESSONS IN M-MYTHOLOGY'

CONCUSSION DOESN'T KILL THIS THING -- BUT MAYBE A MINI-FIRE BOMB WILL!

KWOOM

EEEEEE

I THINK YOU DID IT, PROF- BABY! OLD HOT-STUFF WON'T BOTHER US ANYMORE!

MAYBE NOT-- BUT HERE COMES "SON OF SPIDER!"

IT--IT BECAME A FIRE-BIRD! IN ONE MINUTE, I'M GONNA LOSE MY COOL!

CRACKLE

KWOOM

THIS OVERGROWN TURKEY THINKS I'M GONNA BE ITS DINNER! WELL, HERE'S WHERE THE *WORM* TURNS!

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

CRACKLE

IT CHANGED AGAIN -- INTO A WHOLE TRIBE OF MIDGET INDIANS! AND THEY'RE ALL COMING FOR- *ME*!

YEE YEE YEE YEE

OWW! THEY'RE ALL OVER ME! CAN'T GET 'EM OFF! AIEEH! OOF! USING ME FOR A LIVE PIN-CUSHION! OWW! YEE! YEE!

ALL RIGHT, YOU JUNIOR CREEPS -- END OF THE LINE! EVERYBODY OFF! YEE!

JUMPIN' JUPITER! THOSE THINGS -- THEY'RE ALL OOZING TOGETHER! LIKE A CARLOAD OF *SILLY PUTTY!* NOW WHAT?

THAT'S WHAT! MAN -- I'VE SEEN UGLY THINGS BEFORE, BUT THIS TAKES FIRST PRIZE FOR THE INTER-NATIONAL UGLINESS AWARD! POWR ROWR

TRY ONE OF THESE IN YOUR BREAD BASKET, BUBIE! I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T WANT TO EAT FOR A WEEK! OUR WHOMP

BWUMP BWUMP BWUMP A HEAD LIKE THIS COULD *STAND* SOME IMPROVING -- SO HERE GOES! INSTANT PLASTIC SURGERY! WAIT! HOLD IT, ROCKY!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

SURE I DO! I'M KILLING UGLY JOE, HERE!

NO! LOOK AGAIN! LOOK HARDER!

HEY! MY EYES--THEY'RE ALL CLOUDED OVER! I CAN HARDLY SEE THAT THING! I'M LOSING MY SIGHT!

NO YOU'RE NOT, BUDDY! YOU'RE REGAINING IT!

H-H-HOLY BLAZES! I-I-I'VE BEEN CHOKIN'--PROF! HOW IN THE--

GASP! QUESTIONS LATER! CHOKE! FOR NOW--UNTIE MY THROAT, YOU OX! GASP!

IT WAS SOMETHING IN THE FOOD--A HALLUCINOGENIC HERB--LIKE LSD! IT MADE US SEE THINGS THAT WEREN'T THERE! LOOK AT THE FLOOR! IT NEVER SPLIT OPEN!

MAN, THEY GOT SOME WILD BERRIES AROUND HERE! ME, I'M GOIN' ON A STRICT DIET FROM HERE ON IN!

THEY DID IT TO BREAK US DOWN SO WE'D CONFESS TO--HOLD IT! THE WALL-- IT'S OPENING!

ANOTHER HALLUCINATION!

MAYBE--BUT I'M GONNA HAVE A VERY REAL FIST READY FOR THAT THING--JUST IN CASE!

WHIRRR

WE HAVE COME TO HELP YOU ESCAPE! QUICKLY-- THE EXECUTION SQUAD IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY!

SHEESH! NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A HALLUCINATION! A REAL DREAM DOLL!

THE PRINCESS AND HER FATHER ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW OF THEES TUNNEL! SHE AND I, PANCHO TORITO, WILL GO AHEAD TO MAKE SURE THE COAST SHE EES CLEAR!

HEY, ACE--WE GOT OURSELVES A ROYAL ESCORT-- THE KING'S DAUGHTER!

A MOMENT LATER...

BARROOM BOOM BOOM

LOOK OUT, MEN! IT'S A CAVE-IN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

SECONDS LATER...

KWOO

YOUR DADDY PLAYS ROUGH, PRINCESS! SINCE HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW ABOUT THAT TUNNEL--HE MUST HAVE STARTED THE CAVE-IN!

HE HAS SWORN TO KILL ANY INVADERS, SENOR! BUT COME, I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY TO FREEDOM

BEYOND THAT MOUNTAIN IS FREEDOM, SENORS! GO!

I WOULD LOVE TO TAKE YOU WITH ME, MY LEETLE CACTUS BLOSSOM! BUT EET WAS NOT FATED TO BE!

AND HE'S PROBABLY GOT A WIFE AND SIX KIDS BACK IN MEXICO CITY! NOW LET'S VAMOOSE!

A FORK IN THE TRAIL--WE'D BETTER INVESTIGATE BOTH PATHS! YOU AND ROCKY TRY THAT ONE, ACE--I'LL TAKE OUR MEXICAN FRIEND THIS WAY!

RIGHT! REPORT BACK HERE IN FIVE MINUTES!

HEY, PANCHO, GET A LOAD OF THAT! DID YOU EVER SEE SUCH A-- PANCHO! WHERE ARE YOU?

SUDDENLY..

THAT THING IS BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE A MULE TEAM OR-- YAGGH!

FIRE-- POURING FROM THE MOUTH! FLAMES, ALL AROUND ME! YAGGH!

GOT TO BEAT OUT THE FIRE! ROLL ON GROUND! SMOTHER FLAMES! THE KING DID THIS, TOO!

SLAP SLAP

WHOOSH BAM

AT THAT SAME MOMENT...

ROCKY--I FOUND THEM-- THE HERBAL MEDICINE WE WERE SENT TO--

ACE-- GET OUT OF THERE-- EARTH-QUAKE!

BOOM BUM BOOM

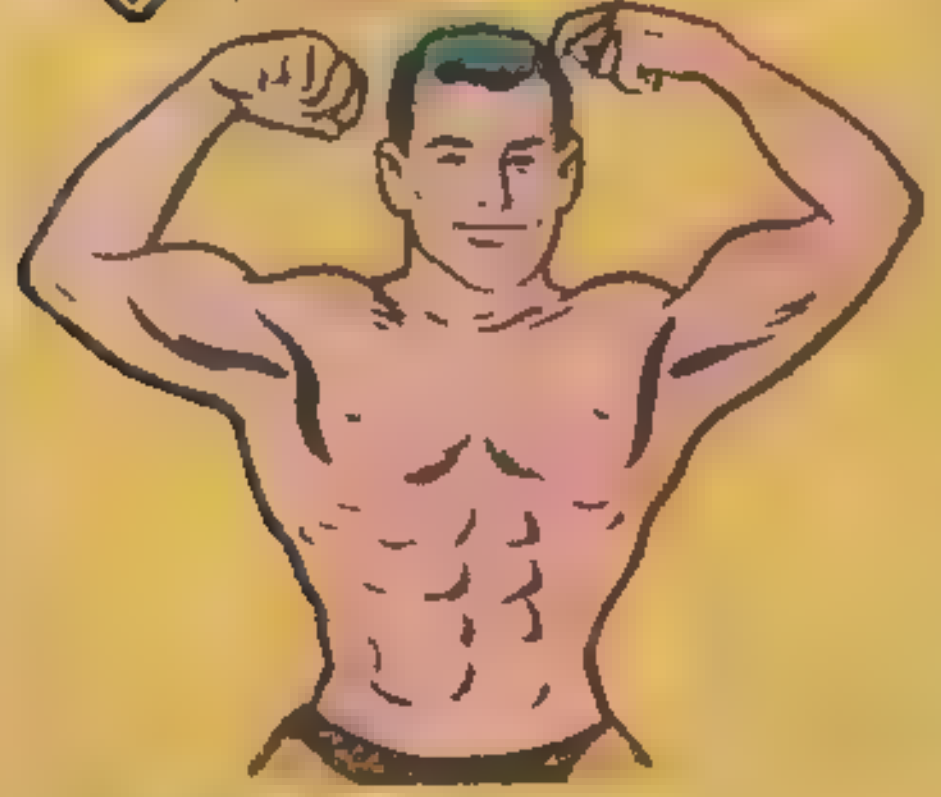
I GOT YOU, BUBBIE! AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON! YOU ALMOST HAD A BATH IN BOILING SELTZER!

A NATURAL HOT SPA UNDER THERE--BUT IT WAS FULLY GROWN OVER! HADN'T ERUPTED IN YEARS! SO SOMEBODY MUST HAVE DYNAMITED IT BACK INTO ACTION! SOMEBODY LIKE-- KING TAPUTOCA!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

BOYS, MEN, BUILD, DEVELOP MIGHTY MUSCLES!

WATCH THOSE MUSCLES GROW AND BULGE!



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MONEY BACK GUARANTEED

WRONG! IT'S NOT THE KING TRYING TO KILL US! WHERE WOULD HE GET DYNAMITE? OR THIS FLAME-THROWER I FOUND HIDDEN IN AN ANCIENT STATUE? NO SIR, IT HAS TO BE--

YES, SENORS--ME! PANCHO TORITO! WHO WILL NOW FEENEESH YOU OFF WITH THIS DYNAMITE BOMB! ADIOS, AMIGOS!

DON'T ADIOS ME, BUDDY-- I'M NOT GOING OFF, AND NEITHER IS THAT BOMB!

WELL, I'LL BE--! HE--HE'S JUST A TEEN-AGE KID! NOW LOOK HERE, BUSTER--WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE ATTEMPTS ON OUR LIVES? WHO GAVE YOU A LICENSE TO KILL?

COOL IT, DADDYO! YOU DON'T WANT TO BLOW YOUR STACK IN THESE TROPICAL CLIMATES-- YOU'LL WIND UP ON THE FUNNY FARM!

NOW RELAX AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE WHOLE PITCH! BUT FIRST, HAVE A STICK OF GUM!

HUH?

SUDDENLY, AS THE CHEWING GUM PROVES MIGHTY UNFRIENDLY...

KWOOSH

;COUGH! A SMOKE BOMB IN A STICK OF GUM! ;CHOKE! WHAT'S GOIN' ON AROUND HERE? ;COUGH!

;CHOKE! I DON'T KNOW, ROCKY--BUT I'LL GIVE YOU ONE GUESS WHO'S GONNA BE GONE WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS! ;GASP!

LATER, AT A HOSPITAL BACK IN THE STATES.

HOSPITAL

WELL, WE GOT THOSE HERBS BACK JUST IN TIME! THE DOCTORS SAY PROF. DREXLER STANDS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE OF RECOVERY!

YEAH--BUT I'M STILL WRAPPIN' MY BRAIN AROUND OUR PRIVATE PROBLEM! WHO'S THAT KID--AND WHY IS HE TRYIN' TO KILL US?

HMM! LET'S JUST HOPE HE'S SOME KIND OF JUNIOR KOOK OR SCHOOL DROPOUT WHO'S PASSED ON TO SOME OTHER PASTIME BY NOW!

THAT'S JUST WISHFUL THINKING, MEN! IF YOU ONLY KNEW THE REAL MOTIVE BEHIND THAT KID...

THEY DON'T REALIZE ONE "SMALL" THING--TINO MANNARY IS MY STAGE NAME--A SCRAMBLED FORM OF "MARTIN RYAN!" RED RYAN'S KID BROTHER! THEY KILLED RED--I KNOW THAT! AND THEY'LL DIE FOR THAT--ONE BY ONE!

KLANG KLANG KLANG

HERE'S ANOTHER HIT BY TINO MANNARY!

"THIS IS THE ROSE ABSOLUTE -- THE FLOWER THAT WAS MY JENNY'S LOVE!"

HOO-HA! THIS THREATENS TO BE THE BEGINNING OF THE WILDEST *CHALLENGER* ADVENTURE OF THEM ALL! DON'T **MISS** IT NEXT ISH, FANS!

24

THE STRANGEST ALLIANCE SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME--BITTER ENEMIES BECOME TRUSTED TEAMMATES!

WHY? THE INCREDIBLE ANSWER EXPLODES IN THE DARINGLY DIFFERENT DRAMA, "BROTHERS in BLOOD!"

WHEN THAT ULTIMATE SYNDICATE OF THE SINISTER--THE BROTHERHOOD of EVIL--JOINS OUR HEROIC, FABULOUS FREAKS--

the DOOM PATROL!

ALSO: THE INSIDE, NEVER-BEFORE-TOLD STORY OF BEAST BOY, THE JUNGLE KID, "WAIF OF THE WILDERNESS!"

ON SALE EVERYWHERE APRIL 18th

DIRECT CURRENTS

Well, that time is here again when April showers are supposed to bring May flowers—and the newsstands blossom out with a new crop of DC mags! So I'll tell you what's up, tiger lily, and you can pick your favorites! And frankly, I'll be surprised if you pass up any of 'em!

Featured in the July TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED, No. 101, on sale Apr. 6, is a sensational treasure-hunt tale—with a black magic menace cloaking the mystery of "THE GUARDIAN MONSTER!" Also, the adventure of a criminal who becomes a triple threat—"THE MAN IN THE LIQUID MASK!"

In the June HOUSE OF MYSTERY, No. 167, ROBBY REED, the boy who can change into 1,000 super-heroes, meets his match in a thrilling DIAL H FOR HERO duel with "THE FANTASTIC RAINBOW RAIDER," a villain who can change into colors with awesome powers! on sale Apr. 6.

An angry mob . . . hurling stones, eggs and garbage . . . runs SUPERBOY right out of SMALLVILLE! And at the head of the crowd are MOM and DAD KENT, the BOY OF STEEL'S foster parents!

Read "THE TOWN THAT HATED SUPERBOY," in the June issue, No. 139, on sale Apr. 6.

JEB STUART and the crew of the famous HAUNTED TANK have a startling mission in "SCRATCH THAT TANK!" Extra! SPECIAL BATTLE GUEST! ACE JOHNNY CLOUD in the unforgettable "DEATH OF A BOY—BIRTH OF A MAN!" In the July G.I. COMBAT, No. 124, on sale Apr. 11.

To gaze upon the stone-god in the VALLEY OF THE MISTS was strictly forbidden—lest a deadly doom be unleashed upon the world! An archeologist defies the warning—and "LION-MANE—THE TABU TERROR" makes his debut in the July HAWKMAN, No. 20, on sale Apr. 11.

Can you believe SUPERMAN would commit his pal, JIMMY OLSEN, to the funny farm? That's just what happens when the MAN OF STEEL straps Jimmy in a straitjacket and locks him up in a padded cell! It's in the June issue, No. 102.

You'll have to wait till Apr. 13 for the eye-popping June issue of GREEN LANTERN, No. 53, to see how the EMERALD CRUSADER becomes the helpless "CAPTIVE OF THE EVIL EYE!" EXTRA!—a new JORDAN BROTHERS story—"TWO GREEN LANTERNS IN THE FAMILY!"

A deadly nerve gas is about to be unleashed on the world—no one knows from where! Who's to find it? Why, the NEW BLACKHAWKS in their roles as super-heroes! It's all part of the NEW BLACKHAWK ERA, continuing in the June issue, No. 233, on sale Apr. 13.

Close the windows! Bolt the doors! There's a monster on the loose! But never fear—STANLEY'S here, and the fearsome brute is his pet, who's afraid of his own shadow, and everybody else's! In THE FOX AND THE CROW (WITH STANLEY AND HIS MONSTER)—July, No. 104, on sale Apr. 13.

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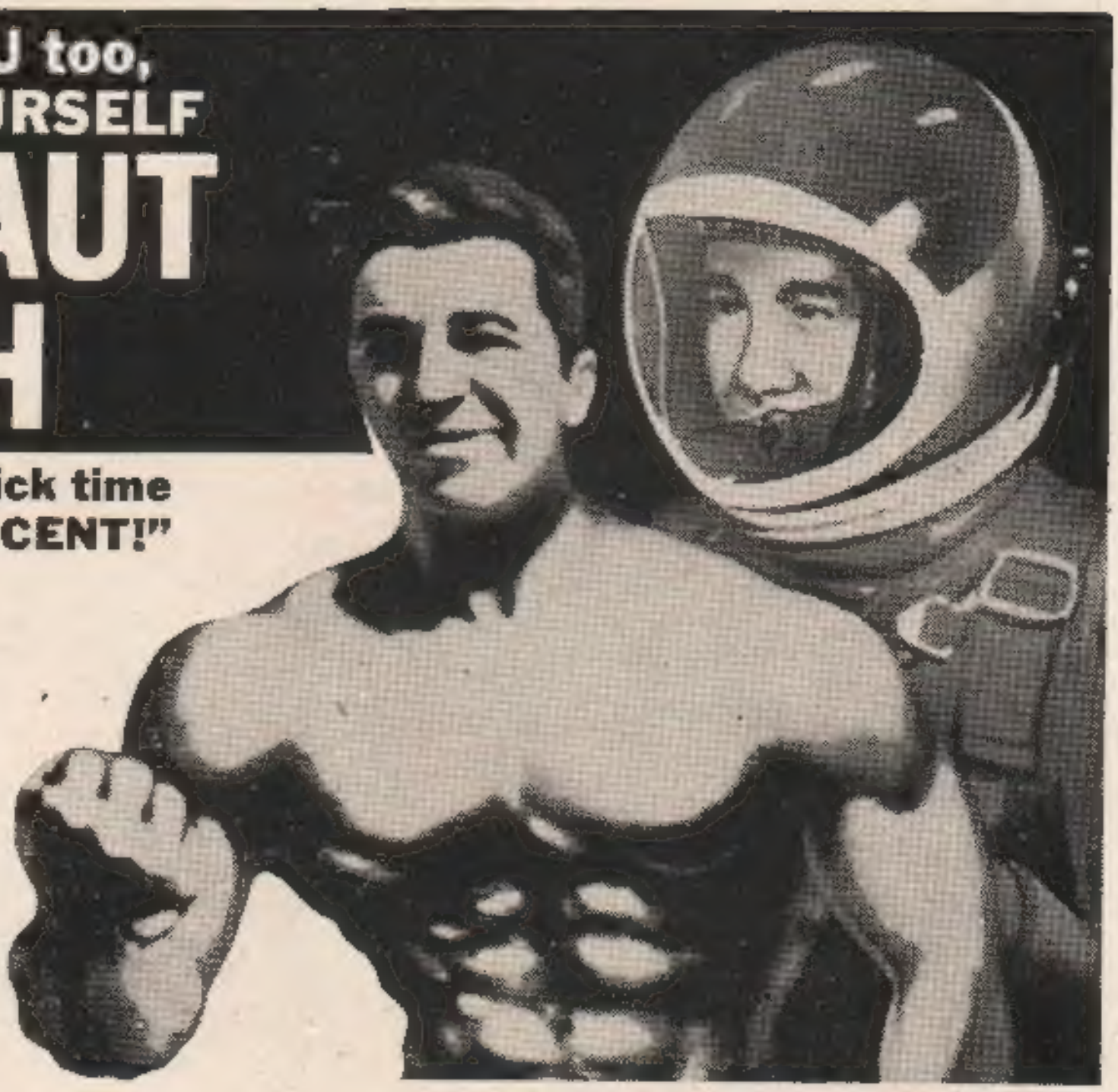
"Let me show YOU too, HOW TO MAKE YOURSELF ASTRONAUT-TOUGH



Inside and out...in double quick time —OR IT WON'T COST YOU A CENT!"

says *Ben Rebhuhn*

whom experts called today's

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WHICH OF MY 101,000 PUPILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

I GAINED 60 LBS. OF SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES

BEFORE Mailing Coupon I was a 125 lb. 6 ft. skinny weakling

says JOHN SILL

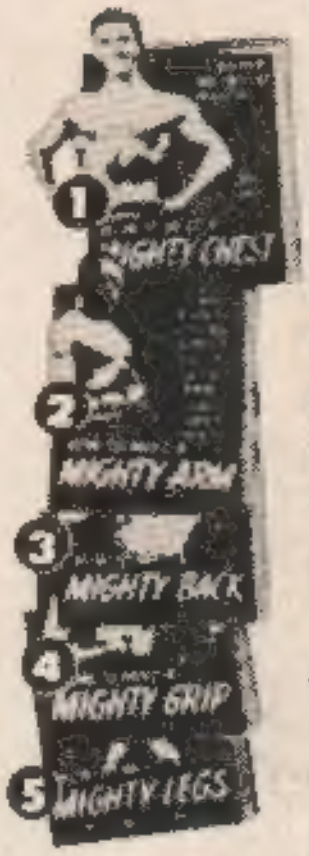
I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3½ INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pal, You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.

"I LOST 30 LBS. of dangerous UGLY FAT 4 inches off my WAIST!"

says Felipe Mendez

Which of these 2 ME'S is YOU?

"That 220 lb. FAT-BOY was ME a few weeks ago." Look at him NOW! Gave him MIGHTY MUSCLES, added 7 inches to his CHEST, 3 inches on each arm! No! I don't care how fat and flabby you are. All I want is minutes a day in your home to make you over by the same method.



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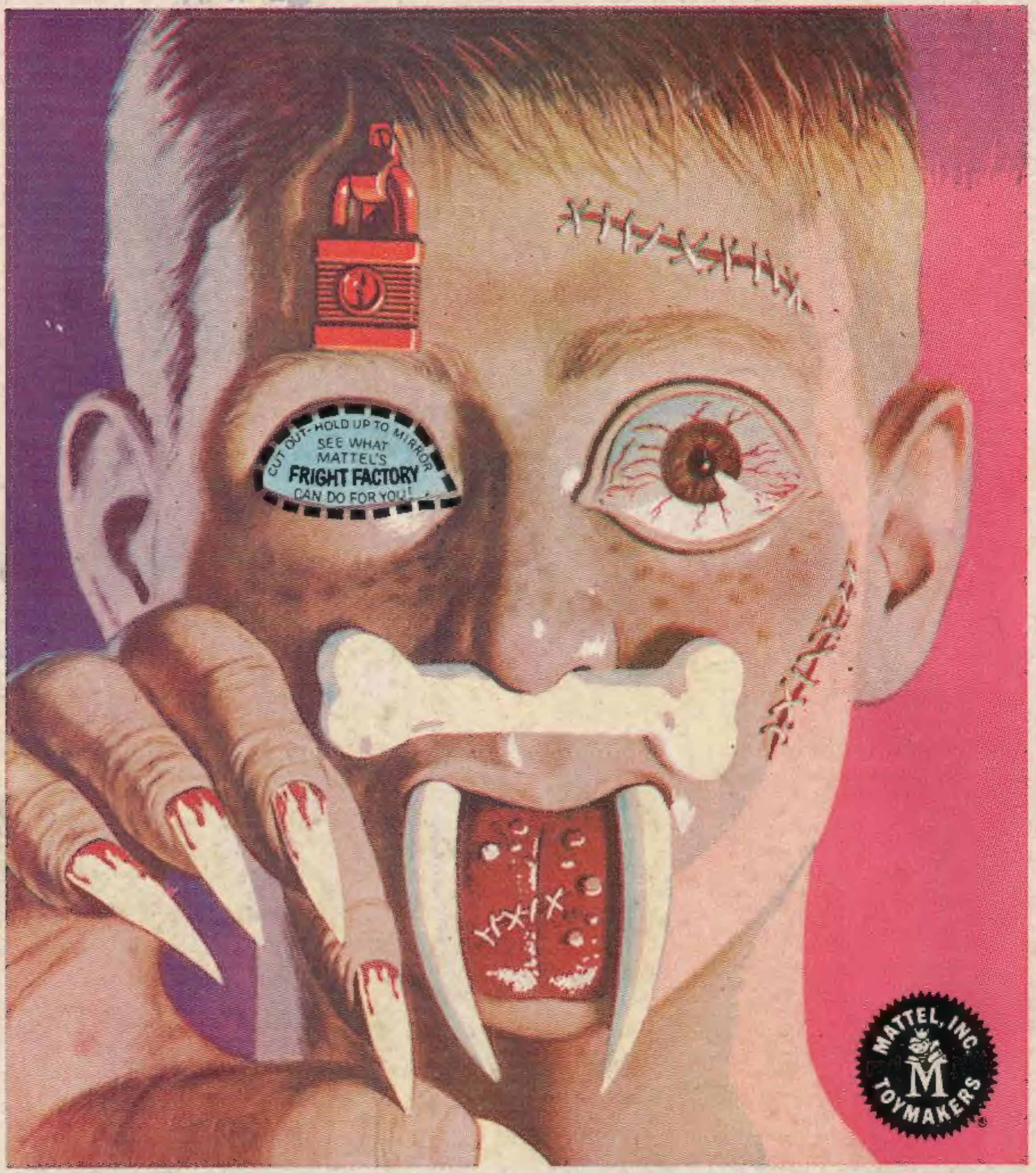

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